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tahdin range were the only ice clad peaks in this part of the continent.

When in their turn the glaciers of the White Mountain region began to melt away, the freshets occasioned by the sudden large accumulation of water remodelled many of these moraines and carried off the minute materials they contained, to deposit them lower down in the shape of river terraces. I have recently satisfied myself, by a careful examination, that all the river terraces of the Connecticut River valley and its tributaries, as well as those of the Merrimack and its tributaries, are deposits formed by the floods descending from the melting glaciers. What President Hitchcock has described as sea-beaches and ocean bottoms near the White Mountain and Franconia Notches, as well as in the Connecticut River valley and along the Merrimack, have all the same origin. The ocean never was in contact with these deposits, which nowhere contain any trace of marine organic remains.

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## NATURAL HISTORY MISCELLANY.

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### BOTANY.

RICHARDSONIA SCABRA, a tropical American Rubiaceae weed, has every now and then been picked up and sent us from Georgia or Alabama; and if it is Pursh's *Spermacoce involucreta*, as is probable, it was introduced more than half a century ago. It appears that it is now taking wide possession of the soil in the piney region, and that it may play an useful part. Dr. F. J. B. Roehmer, of Mobile, Alabama, writes of this plant as follows:

"This plant was comparatively rare here twenty years ago, but is now very common throughout the piney wood region of Alabama skirting the Gulf coast. It seems to choke out all the grasses by its more luxuriant growth. It is known by farmers, as "Mexican Clover," and may possibly have been introduced during the Mexican war, as it is said to grow in the rear of Vera Cruz. It is relished by all kind of stock, either green or cured.

In my capacity, during our late war. as botanist and chemist for the de-

partment of the Gulf, I introduced the roots of this plant into the supply table of the Confederate States Army, as an indigenous succedaneum for the true Ipecac, then exceedingly scarce, and as a substitute for the Euphorbias which had been recommended, but which were too violent in their operation, and I can say that in increased doses it answered every purpose."

ACCLIMATIZATION OF PALM TREES. — In addition to the date-palm and the *Chamærops*, which have long been naturalized on the European shores of the Mediterranean, M. Naudin has succeeded very well with several other kinds at Collioure, in the Pyrenees, notwithstanding the exceptionally unfavorable character of the winter of 1869-70. The severe cold of the last week of December, when the thermometer descended to  $-4^{\circ}$ , and in some localities even to  $-6^{\circ}$  C., was fatal to only one species. The extraordinarily heavy fall of snow which took place in January, lasting for forty-four hours without intermission, was expected to destroy the young trees altogether. After, however, they had been entirely covered up with snow for nine or ten days, so that the boughs were completely flattened, when the thaw came they almost immediately recovered their former position, even the green color of the leaves not being injured. The same fall of snow caused a fearful amount of destruction among the olives and cork-oaks. — *Quarterly Journal of Science*.

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## ZOOLOGY.

LONDON ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS. The whole number of animals in the Zoological Society's Gardens, usually somewhat exceeds 2000. On the first of January last, it was 2,031, consisting of 598 mammals, 1245 birds, and 170 reptiles and batrachians, besides the fishes in the aquarium, which do not appear to be included in the annual census. Constant additions are made to the series, not only by purchase, but also by gifts of correspondents in every part of the world, and by exchange with the continental establishments. — *Nature*.

THE NESTING OF THE FISH HAWK. — Mr. Samuels in his "Birds of New England," speaking of the fish hawk, says "that seldom more than one nest is found in one locality" (in New England). At Harpswell, Maine, situated about twenty miles east of Portland, I know of at least fifteen nests of the fish hawk within one square mile. I think I might safely call the number twenty, but as I am writing I can only *distinctly* remember fifteen. A short time since speaking to a gentleman who has for many years lived at Harpswell, of what I had read in Mr. Samuel's book, he said, "tell him you know of a place where there are fifty nests within three miles, and I can find more places like it." These nests that I speak of were all on two small islands. These islands I visited exclusively, but I see no reason why there should not be nests on the rest also. On both of these islands the great blue heron and the night heron breed together